



COMMUNITY OF CARING

Charitable Care Fund Helps Hospice Patient Receive Critical Dental Care

For more than two years, Tom has relied on VNA's hospice services to help him live as comfortably as possible while battling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). But when three severely infected teeth began causing him significant pain, he faced a problem he couldn't solve on his own.

Now bedridden and living on a limited income, Tom couldn't afford the dental care he desperately needed. Because he was unable to travel to a dentist's office, receiving treatment seemed out of reach. Without the support of the VNA team and the VNA & Hospice Foundation's Charitable Care Fund, he likely would not have been able to access the dental care that brought him comfort and relief.

After antibiotics failed to clear the infections, Tom's teeth had to be extracted. The VNA team coordinated care with the Tooth Fairy Mobile Dental Service, which came directly to his home to perform the procedure. The Foundation's Charitable Care Fund covered the cost of the extraction.

"The procedure was a tremendous success. His mouth healed, and he was able to enjoy food again, talk, and be happy," said Danette Bray, Tom's VNA hospice social worker.

Tom's hospice nurse, Rachel Cinalli, has cared for him for more than a year and has witnessed the gratitude he carries each day. "Tom is grateful and blessed

for every day he has with his son, and he tells me that every time I see him. He is truly one of my favorites," Rachel shared.

Reflecting on the care he has received, Tom said, "The VNA team has been so good to me."

He also shared his appreciation for everyone who has supported him, saying, "Danette and everyone at the VNA have taken such good care of me. I would do it all over again. Keep it up. The doctors are the best. Bless you all."

In addition to coordinating his dental care, the VNA team helped Tom enroll in Medicaid, connecting him with resources that will continue to support his health-care needs.



Tom's story is just one example of how the VNA & Hospice Foundation's Charitable Care Fund helps patients receive care that might otherwise be out of reach. Thanks to the generosity of donors, patients facing financial hardship can access services that provide comfort, relieve pain, and improve their quality of life.

*Last year, with your support,
we were able to help over 500 patients
receive the care they deserve through the
VNA & Hospice Foundation Charitable Care
program valued at over \$736,000.*

We Welcome our new VNA & Hospice Foundation Board Members



Davis Benedict

It is an honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for the VNA & Hospice Foundation. A native Floridian, our family had the opportunity to move back to Vero to be closer to our parents in 2016.

As the country was shutting down in 2020, my father-in-law needed in-home services and then later, hospice care. In a time when there was tremendous uncertainty in the world, my father-in-law and our family were treated with dignity and respect, and he was given the compassionate care he needed and deserved.

I am a life-time educator with a passion for all members of our community. I believe in fostering the well-being and dignity for all people. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in the foster care system and have served as a board member of Artemis, Dayton Children’s Medical Center Women’s Board, the Chewonki Foundation, and currently I serve on Andrus on the Hudson, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility.

I am married to Pete, a native Floridian as well, and we have two sons, four rescue dogs, and a few chickens. We are outdoor enthusiasts and voracious readers and feel that there is no place like Vero.



Dr. Emil Nardone

I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors for the VNA & Hospice Foundation. My dedication to this board is deeply personal, shaped by decades of caring for patients as a chiropractor here in Vero Beach, where I continue to actively practice. I’ve seen firsthand how compassionate, dignified care changes lives during some of life’s most difficult moments, and I know the profound impact VNA Hospice provides to families in our community.

My path has been a bit unconventional — alongside my chiropractic practice, I’m also a licensed attorney, admitted to the Alabama and New Mexico bars, and a U.S. Army National Guard veteran. That combination of medicine, law, and military service has taught me discipline, empathy, and the importance of advocating for others.

I’m married to my wife, Patricia, a retired dentist, and together we make up Team Nardone at Dale Sorenson Real Estate. When I’m not working, I enjoy hunting, following college football, and writing. Vero Beach is home, and serving this community — through healthcare, law, and now this board — is a privilege I don’t take lightly.



Angela Schroeder

Serving on the VNA & Hospice Board is a personal tribute to my wonderful mother who was a Hospice volunteer for 17 years in Cleveland, Ohio. She spent many long evenings sitting with hospice patients to give their caregivers a break. She recently turned 90 and is currently struggling with Alzheimer’s.

A few years ago, my husband and I bought a vacation house in Vero Beach to escape the NJ snow. I was eager to find a substantial volunteer position and contribute to the community. I am very proud to join this distinguished group of mission-driven leaders in Vero Beach. My business background is in strategic consulting at McKinsey & Company, focusing on pharmaceutical R&D. My non-profit experience includes serving as National Board Chair for Family Promise which supports homeless families. I also served on the Foundation Board of our local hospital in Summit, NJ, chairing the hospital’s Centennial Celebration events. My interests include tennis, book club, running, and hosting our six children and three (and counting) grandchildren when they come to visit us in Florida.

Ann Marie McCrystal’s Legacy Honored with Street Dedication

VNA Co-Founder and longtime board member Ann Marie McCrystal has dedicated her life to strengthening healthcare and serving the Vero Beach community. In recognition of her contributions, the VNA recently dedicated Ann Marie McCrystal Way, the road leading to VNA Hospice House, in her honor.

More than 50 years ago, Ann Marie joined a group of community volunteers who recognized the need for a local healthcare agency. Together, they founded the Visiting Nurse Association of the Treasure Coast, creating a nonprofit dedicated to providing compassionate care to patients and families throughout Indian River County,

regardless of their ability to pay.

A trained operating room nurse, Ann Marie has remained deeply connected to the VNA throughout the years and continues to serve as an active board member for both the VNA of the Treasure Coast and the VNA & Hospice Foundation.

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Enhancing Comfort and Care at the VNA Hospice House

Every day, the VNA Hospice House provides compassionate, around-the-clock care for patients during one of life’s most difficult journeys. In a peaceful, home-like setting, patients receive expert medical care while families find comfort, guidance, and support. And because no eligible patient is turned away due to inability to pay, families can focus on spending meaningful time together instead of worrying about financial hardship.

Providing exceptional hospice care means continually investing in the environment where that care takes place. Thanks to grant funding, the VNA Hospice House recently completed several important upgrades that will enhance the comfort, safety, and quality of care patients receive every day.

Among the improvements are new hospital beds designed to provide greater comfort while supporting the complex needs of hospice patients. The upgraded beds offer improved positioning options, enhanced pressure redistribution to help

reduce the risk of skin breakdown, and features that make it easier for caregivers to provide personalized care while preserving patient dignity.

The grant also funded a new NexsysADC™ Automated Dispensing Cabinet, a medication dispensing system that provides secure, controlled access to medications. The system allows nurses to retrieve medications more efficiently while maintaining accurate inventory and documentation. By improving medication safety and reducing the potential for errors, the technology enables nurses to spend less time managing medications and more time at the bedside caring for patients and their families.

In addition, the Hospice House now features enhanced security measures, including controlled building access and updated surveillance capabilities. These improvements help create a safer environment for patients, families, visitors, and staff while protecting medications and other sensitive areas within the facility.



“These investments reflect VNA’s ongoing commitment to providing exceptional end-of-life care. By continually improving our facilities, technology, and safety measures, we are demonstrating our dedication to delivering compassionate, patient-centered care while supporting both our clinical staff and the families we serve,” said Michele Maugeri, Hospice House Manager. “Families can have greater peace of mind knowing their loved ones are being cared for in a secure facility equipped with modern technology that supports high-quality hospice care.”

How One Garden Brightens the VNA Hospice House

Every Thursday, Sharon Richards and her husband Tom deliver fresh, locally grown vegetables donated by Shining Light Garden to the VNA Hospice House, providing patients and their families with nutritious produce to enjoy.

Sharon also handpicks flowers from the garden to create cheerful bouquets for patients’ rooms, bringing an extra touch of comfort during difficult times.

One of Sharon’s favorite parts of their weekly deliveries is visiting with Chef Jason.

“He always welcomes us with such warmth and hospitality and is excited to see what fresh produce we’ve brought that week. It’s wonderful to watch him

transform those vegetables into delicious, nutritious meals for patients and their families,” said Sharon.

Founded by Joel Bray in 2008, Shining Light Garden is a community garden in Vero Beach dedicated to growing fresh produce and sharing it with local food pantries, soup kitchens, veteran organizations, senior programs, and other community partners. From broccoli to beets, everything grown in the garden is shared to help nourish and uplift others.

By volunteering with Shining Light Garden, Sharon and Tom share more than fresh vegetables and flowers. Their weekly visits bring comfort, kindness, and a reminder to patients and families that they are not alone.



“It’s our hope that every delivery reminds patients and their families that they are loved and cared for. We are grateful to be a small part of the compassionate work of the VNA and the mission of Shining Light Garden,” said Sharon.

Generous Gift from the DSF Foundation Builds a Healthier Tomorrow

More than 50 years ago, a group of dedicated volunteers made a simple but powerful promise: that everyone in our community would have access to compassionate, high-quality health-care at home, regardless of their ability to pay. Today, that promise continues because of the generosity of donors who believe that no one should go without the care they need. A transformational gift of \$750,000 to the VNA & Hospice Foundation is the latest example of that commitment in action.

The donation was generously given by the DSF Foundation and will be spread over the next three years.

The funding will support several key initiatives that will expand access to care, invest in the professional development of VNA clinicians, and advance innovative technology that enhances patient care.

One of the primary areas of support is the VNA's Mobile Health Clinic, a vital resource for individuals and families who face barriers to traditional healthcare. The investment will help sustain and expand this essential service, providing

affordable medical care, health screenings, preventive services, and wellness education to thousands of residents throughout the community.

The grant will also strengthen the VNA's commitment to clinical excellence by providing continuing education opportunities for its clinicians. Funding will support advanced certifications and higher education pathways, allowing nurses and other healthcare professionals to expand their knowledge and skills. By investing in caregivers, the Foundation is helping ensure patients continue to receive the highest quality, evidence-based care.

In addition, the gift will help the VNA implement innovative technology solutions that improve communication, streamline administrative tasks, and enhance operational efficiency. These



advancements will allow clinicians to spend less time on paperwork and more time where they are needed most—caring for patients.

"We are deeply grateful to the DSF Charitable Foundation for this visionary investment in our mission. Their generosity will have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our community," said Maurika Reed, Director of Philanthropy.

"Get Your Ducks in a Row" Series Helps Community Plan for the Future

Planning for the future isn't always easy, but the VNA's Get Your Ducks in a Row educational series is helping members in the community take important steps toward protecting themselves and their loved ones.

The series, which took place at Northern Trust, welcomed 28 participants who gathered to hear from local experts on topics such as medical and financial power of attorney, the difference between wills and trusts, tax benefits and how to protect your assets.

The response to the series has been overwhelmingly positive, with attendees expressing appreciation for the valuable information, engaging discussions, and practical resources provided.

"We truly thought our ducks were in good shape and then found out what we had set up in Connecticut didn't meet Florida requirements. We are now making sure everything is updated. Thank you for organizing such an informational series, we highly recommend this!," said one attendee.

Thank you to our speakers:

- Kathryn Barton, CPA, CFP®, *Offutt Barton Schlitt*
- Anita Calabro, Senior Trust Officer, Vice President, *Cypress Bank and Trust*
- Debra Crum, CPA, *Rehmann*
- Jim Davis, CFP, Financial Advisor, *Vero Beach Global Advisors*
- Glenn B. Grevenoged, P.A.
- Susan Baran, GRI, Broker Associate and Team Lead, *The Legacy Team – eXp Realty*
- Candi Alexander, LCSW, Director of Patient Experience and Social Work, *VNA of the Treasure Coast*
- Lisa Sellers, APRN-C, MSN, FNP-C, Transitional Care, *VNA of the Treasure Coast*
- Sydney McCay – Investigative Support Technician, Criminal Investigation Division, *Indian River County Sheriff's Office*
- Deputy Scott Burke, *Indian River County Sheriff's Office*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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- Hudson Advisors • Northern Trust • PNC Private Bank
- Vero Global Advisors, Jim Davis

Join our next Get Your Ducks in Row Series

January 15, 22 and 29, 2027
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Employee Spotlight: Chef Jason Venazio

Since 2019, Chef Jason Venazio has provided much more than just meals at the VNA Hospice House. He creates moments of comfort for patients and families during life's most difficult days.

Jason earned his culinary degree from the Art Institute of Tampa and has spent years building his craft in kitchens across the country. Before joining the VNA Hospice House, he cooked in restaurants and kitchens everywhere from New York to Turks and Caicos and even owned his own food preparation company.

Today, he brings his many years of experience to the Hospice House kitchen. He says it's unlike anywhere else he's ever worked, but in the best way possible.

"It's like cooking at home if you had a family of 20," Jason said. "You can really take your time and care about what you're doing."

One of the first things Jason does when a patient arrives is find out what foods they love. Patients and their families can fill out a sheet with their favorite meals, giving Jason the opportunity to prepare dishes that feel familiar and comforting. He regularly goes out of his way to make those requests happen, even stopping at the grocery store himself if the kitchen is missing an ingredient, just to make sure a patient can enjoy a favorite meal.

Jason regularly interacts with hospice patients, and over the years, he has formed lasting relationships with many of

those who return for respite care.

"We're buddies at this point," he said with a smile.

One of those respite patients became more than just someone Jason prepared meals for — they developed a special connection over shared dinners and conversations. Moments like these are what Jason says make his time at the VNA Hospice House so special.

Every Thursday, Jason plans the menu and shops for the week ahead, keeping his patients, their preferences, and the staff working each day in mind. Many of the fresh vegetables he uses come from Shining Light Garden, a Vero Beach community garden that donates produce

to local organizations.

"We get bushels of vegetables on Thursdays," he said. "We're very thankful for the generosity of Shining Light Garden and the support they provide to the Hospice House."

While Jason is known for going above and beyond, he's quick to point out that he isn't doing it alone. Volunteers take breakfast and lunch orders, assist with dinner service, and make sure patients receive the meals they want. He says the supportive team and the people he works alongside every day are a big part of what makes the VNA Hospice House such a special place to work.

"The whole environment here is just

really beautiful," Jason said. "Everyone genuinely cares about the patients and each other, and I really love my coworkers. The VNA makes sure things are done the right way, and I'm proud to be part of that."

In addition to caring for the patients, Jason and his team always make sure that their families are taken care of too. "We care for the families just as much as we care for the patients," Jason said. "They get so wrapped up and let themselves go. We're always here to support them."

Outside of work, Jason enjoys staying active at the gym, cooking at home for his wife, and going to concerts.



VNA Hidden Treasures Unveils “Carol’s Corner”

Hidden Treasures, the beloved thrift shop benefiting VNA Hospice, recently unveiled a special new addition: Carol’s Corner, created in honor of VNA & Hospice Foundation board member Carol Kanarek. Carol’s vision, leadership, and dedication have helped shape Hidden Treasures since its earliest days.

For Carol, the recognition came as a complete surprise. “I am thrilled and surprised to be honored with Carol’s Corner,” she said. “It truly caught me off guard.”

Hidden Treasures first opened many years ago when Carol was serving as Chairman of the Hospice Board. At the time, thrift shops were far less common in Vero Beach. Carol credits Mary Ann Roussain, then employed by the VNA, with helping bring the idea to life. “We really thought it would be a win-win,” Carol recalled. “Hospice would benefit from the profits, and the community would have a great new resource.”

Hidden Treasures started modestly in a small location off US 1. From there, it moved near the high school and continued to grow, eventually landing on Miracle Mile, “the best location of all,” according to Carol. The store’s popularity led to a major expansion last year, more than doubling its size and now occupying three bays.

For Carol, however, the shop’s success has always been about more than sales.

“The best part wasn’t just selling gently used items,” she explained. “It was the friendships that formed with family members who had lost loved ones to Hospice and were so appreciative of the VNA. It truly felt like family.”

Sue Rogers, President of the VNA Treasure Coast Board, said the idea for Carol’s Corner emerged as Carol prepared to step down as Foundation Chair. “We wanted to do something special; something meaningful,” Sue said.

Sue also reflected on Carol’s broader contributions to the VNA, including her support of Camp Chrysalis for



Donations at VNA Hidden Treasures are accepted Monday through Saturday from 10:00-4:00; or you can call for a free pick up at 772-563-0010.

grieving children and her leadership in the capital campaign for the VNA Hospice House, where she helped raise more than \$5 million for the endowment. When longtime Foundation Chair Kathy Pierce passed away unexpectedly, Carol stepped in to lead.

As for the future, Carol hopes Hidden Treasures will continue to thrive. “My hope is that it will keep succeeding with strong guidance and that the proceeds will continue to support our Hospice programs.”

Ways to Give to the VNA

Thank you to our donors who generously give to the VNA & Hospice Foundation to ensure that everyone will have access to compassionate care when they need it most.



Annual Giving - Contributions received through our annual mailings such as our newsletter supports non-reimbursed programming and charitable patient care ensuring that everyone receives the care they need and deserve.



Monthly Giving Society As a Sustaining Champion, your tax-deductible monthly donations help provide the resources needed to support home health, hospice and community health services to patients and families in our community.



Memorials/Honorariums These contributions are a meaningful way to celebrate those who are living or to memorialize a loved one.



Tribute Plaque - Messages of commemoration are etched into granite plaques, which are displayed at A Place For Remembering at the VNA Hospice House. These donations support the Hospice House Endowment Fund.



Honor a Caregiver - The Honor a Caregiver Program allows you to celebrate VNA caregivers who provided care and comfort during a difficult time.



Golf-A-Thon - Support one of the many local golf pros who are committed to playing countless holes of golf from sunup to sundown at this annual fund raiser to support VNA’s Charitable Care program.



Hidden Treasures Thrift Stores - Proceeds support the VNA Hospice House and our mission of providing compassionate end-of-life care. Donations of gently used items are also accepted year-round.



Vehicle Donation Program Donate your unwanted cars, boats or motorcycles to benefit hospice. Simply call 855.500.RIDE to donate your vehicle to the VNA today!

IMPORTANT! If you are requesting a Qualified Charitable Distribution, please verify that your Financial Institution has the correct address for the VNA & Hospice Foundation.

Checks made payable to: VNA of the Treasure Coast (EIN# 59-2664912).

Mailed to: VNA & Hospice Foundation
920 27th Place, #101
Vero Beach, FL 32960



QCD - A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows people 70½ years of age to make a charitable gift directly from your IRA any time of year while avoiding paying taxes on the amount gifted.



Legacy Gifts - Secure your legacy and create a long-lasting impact in our community by including the VNA & Hospice Foundation in your will.



VNA Hospice House Endowment Fund Your contribution to the VNA Hospice House Endowment Fund will ensure future generations will have access to this important community resource for end-of-life support.

Continued from page 2 Ann Marie McCrystal’s Legacy Honored with Street Dedication

“The naming of the street Ann Marie McCrystal Way was the perfect way to pay tribute and honor Ann Marie for her many years of service, not only to the VNA, but to the Vero Beach community,” said Carol Kanarek, VNA board member. “She is our champion!”

The street’s location carries special meaning. Visitors traveling along 37th Street will also see Hugh McCrystal Drive, named in honor of Ann Marie’s husband, Dr. Hugh McCrystal, for his

contributions to local healthcare. Now, the two roads recognize the McCrystals’ shared commitment to healthcare in the local community.

The dedication ceremony this past April brought together Ann Marie’s family, friends, physicians, community partners, donors, and others who have been a part of the journey. Today, the Ann Marie McCrystal Way sign stands as a lasting tribute to her leadership, service, and role in the VNA’s history.



Thank you for Making an Impact on our Community. We Raised over \$535,000!

The 36th Annual Golf-A-Thon was an extraordinary victory! Held on May 4, 2026, the event brought together 13 dedicated Vero Beach golf professionals who rallied their time, talent, and passion to raise critical funds for charitable health care services.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we proudly surpassed our fundraising goal, raising more than \$535,000! On behalf of the VNA and countless individuals and families whose lives are touched by your generosity, thank you for your continued commitment, kindness, and support. Your contribution is truly changing lives in our community.



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EIN 59-2804739 - The VNA & Hospice Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting charitable patient care, non-reimbursed services and program needs of the VNA of the Treasure Coast.



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If you receive multiple mailings, would like to update your address, or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 772.978.5580.

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VNA Wish List

Your gift to the VNA & Hospice Foundation Wish List could go towards purchasing the following items. For questions, please call 772.978.5580.

Handheld Musical Instruments - Small drums, maracas, tambourines, and egg shakers – these allow hospice patients to easily participate in music therapy from their bed or chair, which can reduce anxiety, ease pain, encourage emotional expression, and create meaningful bonding moments for patients and their families during end-of-life care.

Patient Care Kits - For those patients caught unexpectedly with having a hospital bed and needing medical support through home health or hospice. These kits include but are not limited to: sheets for hospital beds, bed liners (Chuks), basin for bathing, cups with handles and straws, and other items as needed.

Volunteer Supplies - Volunteers work with patients at all levels of care, these funds would help purchase items to help support the them as they work with patients. These items could include dementia tools such as fidget blankets and dolls or supplies to encourage engagement such as coloring books, cards, puzzles, and birthday supplies.

Veteran Recognition Supplies - Our volunteer program plays an important role with Veterans that are brought onto Hospice service. Support to this fund helps us purchase coins and pinning supplies unique to each Veteran's military branch. This allows us to show gratitude to those who have served.



SCAN ME